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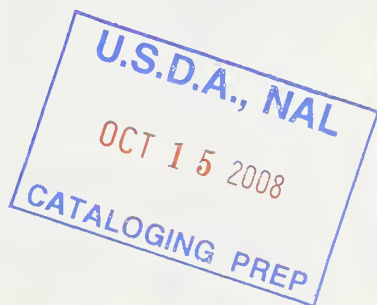


# Biotechnology Information Center

National Agricultural Library

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National  
Agricultural  
Library

## What is the Biotechnology Information Center?

The Biotechnology Information Center is part of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), which is located in Beltsville, MD. The Center provides access to a variety of information services and publications covering many aspects of biotechnology such as: basic genetic manipulation (theory and techniques, plant and animal genetics, monoclonal antibodies, food processing and biomass applications). The Center can help patrons answer questions such as:

- What is the latest information on risk assessment of the release of genetically engineered organisms?
- How are genetically engineered organisms being used in the food industry?
- What are the latest biotechnology techniques that are being used to control disease in plants and animals?
- What success are researchers having in developing new plant species?
- What are the various industrial products and processes that are emerging using this technology?
- How does one set up a biogas operation?
- What are the legislators doing about regulation of fabricated organisms?

We hope that the Center services described here will help you utilize the bibliographic resources of the NAL.

## Biotechnology Information Center Services

### Reference

The Biotechnology Information Center staff is familiar with concepts and techniques used in biotechnology and can guide library users in securing biotechnology information for business, research, and study. You may use the Library directly, or by letter or telephone. The staff will:

- Assist you in accessing NAL's extensive collections on a broad range of biotechnology subjects including genetic engineering of plants and animals, immobilized enzymes, single cell protein and fermentation.
- Refer you to organizations or experts in the field who can provide you with additional information.

- Identify current biotechnology research conducted by USDA research agencies.
- Furnish you with a Quick Bibliography (QB) on such topics as "Genetic Engineering for Crop Plant Improvement," "Single Cell Protein," "Embryo Transfer," or with user guides to the literature such as a list of current journals relevant to biotechnology.
- Perform brief, complimentary searches of the AGRICOLA database on specific biotechnology topics of your choice, or an exhaustive search on a cost recovery basis.
- Assist you in formation of your own search strategies, if you have access to a computer terminal.

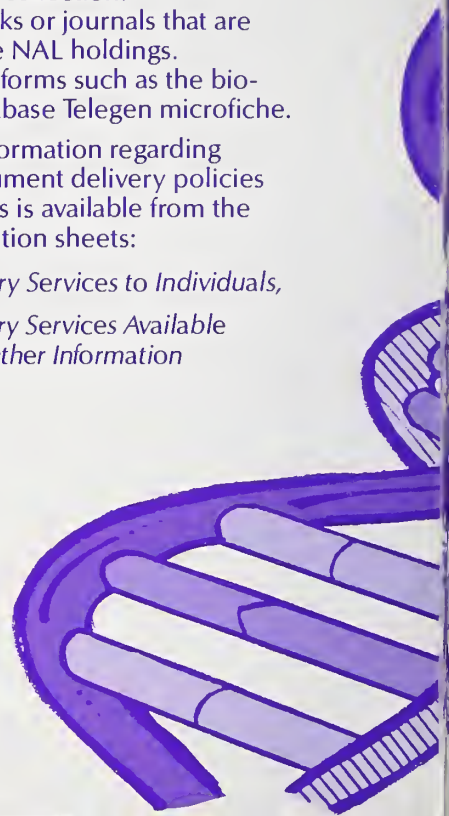
### Document Delivery

If you need to obtain a copy of an article, a microform, or book, document delivery services are available through the Lending Branch at NAL. The variety of document delivery services at NAL includes:

- Interlibrary loans through any institutional or public library.
- Photocopies of journal articles from AGRICOLA citations as well as from other databases if the cited journals or reports are in the NAL's collection.
- Location of books or journals that are not found in the NAL holdings.
- Copies of microforms such as the biotechnology database Telegen microfiche.

More detailed information regarding lending and document delivery policies and fee schedules is available from the following information sheets:

*Document Delivery Services to Individuals,*  
*Document Delivery Services Available to Libraries and Other Information Centers and*



*Commercial Organizations,  
Photocopying Facilities at NAL.*

For more information you  
may also contact the  
public services desk  
at (301) 344-3755.







## About the NAL

- Largest agricultural library in the free world with approximately 1.8 million volumes, including technical and industrial topics relevant to agriculture and over 26,000 periodicals from all over the world.
- One of three national libraries in the United States.
- Acquires various media in the field of agriculture including books, journals, maps, slides, films, video cassettes, oral histories, and micro-computer software. Much of this material is purchased but also a large portion of the collection has been acquired by gift or exchange agreements.
- Producer of the *Bibliography of Agriculture* published by Oryx Press and the AGRICOLA database. The researcher can use both these aids to retrieve bibliographic citations to books, reports, and articles that detail research results and applications as well as commentaries on the broad spectrum of agriculture and its related fields. AGRICOLA is available through the database vendors DIALOG and BRS. For more information on AGRICOLA you may request the following user aids: "Getting Started on AGRICOLA," "AGRICOLA Brochure," and "Searching AGRICOLA for Biotechnology Information."
- Tours of NAL are available by appointment and through self-guided walking tours. NAL also has a number of conference rooms to accommodate small meetings of groups and organizations. For information about tours and room reservations, call the Education and Information Staff at (301) 344-3937.

If you would like more information about the Biotechnology Information Center, write or telephone:

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Room 111  
National Agricultural Library  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(301) 344-3704